

What is claimed is:

1. A digital camera comprising:

a taking lens;

an image-sensing device for shooting an image by receiving light from the

5 taking lens;

an optical element, disposed retractably in an optical path from the taking lens to the image-sensing device, for reflecting part of the light from the taking lens;

a photometric device for measuring an amount of light reflected from the optical element;

10 a controller that, during shooting, makes an illumination device start emitting illumination light and then makes the illumination device stop emitting the illumination light when the amount of light measured by the photometric device has reached a predetermined value;

a selector that selects either a first mode in which shooting is performed  
15 without emission of the illumination light by the illumination device and a second mode in which shooting is performed with emission of the illumination light by the illumination device; and

a driver that retracts the optical element out of the optical path during shooting when the first mode is selected and that keeps the optical element in the  
20 optical path during shooting when the second mode is selected.

2. A digital camera as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the illumination device is built in or externally connected to the digital camera.

3. A digital camera as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the optical element is a half mirror.

5 4. A digital camera as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
a gain controller that adjusts a gain of an output of the image-sensing device  
in such a way that the gain differs between in the first and second modes.

10 5. A digital camera as claimed in claim 4,  
wherein the gain controller sets the gain in the second mode to be  
approximately equal to the gain in the first mode multiplied by a reciprocal of a  
transmittance of the optical element.

15 6. A digital camera as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
a viewfinder that offers a visible image by receiving the light reflected from  
the optical element.

20 7. A method for controlling a digital camera including an optical  
element that is disposed retractably in an optical path from a taking lens to an  
image-sensing device and that reflects part of light from the taking lens,  
comprising:

a step of selecting either a first mode in which shooting is performed without  
emission of illumination light by an illumination device and a second mode in  
which shooting is performed with emission of the illumination light by the

illumination device;

a step of, when the first mode is selected, retracting the optical element out of the optical path during shooting; and

a step of, when the second mode is selected, keeping the optical element in the optical path during shooting, measuring an amount of light reflected from the optical element, and stopping emission of the illumination light as soon as the measured amount of light reaches a predetermined value.

8. A method for controlling a digital camera as claimed in claim 7,  
10 further comprising:

a step of setting a gain of an output of the image-sensing device in such a way that the gain differs between in the first and second modes.